



# Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

NUMBER 5040.4

September 30, 1996

---

---

ASD(PA)

SUBJECT: Joint Combat Camera (COMCAM) Program

References: (a) DoD Instruction 5040.4, "Joint Combat Camera (COMCAM) Operations," March 5, 1990 (hereby canceled)  
(b) DoD Directive 5040.2, "Visual Information (VI)," December 7, 1987  
(c) DoD Directive 5122.5, "Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs," December 2, 1993

## 1. REISSUANCE AND PURPOSE

This Directive:

1.1. Reissues reference (a).

1.2. In conjunction with references (b) and (c), establishes additional policies and responsibilities for the conduct of COMCAM in support of joint and combined military operations.

1.3. Establishes the Joint COMCAM program.

## 2. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments (MILDEPS) (including the Coast Guard when it is operating as a Military Service in the Navy), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Unified Combatant Commands, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, and the DoD Field Activities (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD

Components"). The term "Military Services," as used herein, refers to the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

3.1. Combat Camera (COMCAM). The acquisition and utilization of still and motion imagery in support of military operations. COMCAM does not include imagery specifically acquired by Intelligence activities.

3.2. COMCAM Forces. U.S. military personnel trained and employed to acquire, process, and transmit still and motion imagery in support of classified and unclassified air, sea, and ground military operations.

3.3. COMCAM Imagery. Still and motion images of military operations acquired by COMCAM forces, regardless of the medium in which the images are acquired, transmitted, or displayed.

### 4. POLICY

It is DoD policy that:

4.1. COMCAM imagery is an essential battlefield information resource that supports strategic, operational, and tactical mission objectives. It is a fundamental tool of commanders and decisionmakers throughout the Department of Defense.

4.2. The mission of COMCAM is to provide the National Command Authority (NCA), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the MILDEPS, and the Unified Combatant Commands with a directed imagery capability in support of operational and planning requirements during worldwide crises, contingencies, exercises and wartime operations.

4.3. COMCAM imagery is an information resource that shall be shared, as required, to simultaneously support the operational and planning requirements of the NCA, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the MILDEPS and the Unified Combatant Commands. Those requirements include situational awareness, public affairs (PA), information warfare, mission assessment, and legal documentation. COMCAM imagery may be used as a secondary intelligence resource.

4.4. Commanders involved in joint and combined operations shall plan for,

sustain, and employ COMCAM forces.

4.5. Commanders shall expeditiously process and forward COMCAM imagery with captions to the DoD Joint COMCAM Center (JCCC).

4.6. The JCCC shall serve as the central DoD reception and distribution point for COMCAM imagery. The JCCC shall distribute COMCAM imagery to the NCA, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the MILDEPS, the Unified Combatant Commands, the Defense Agencies, and the other DoD Components.

## 5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs shall:

5.1.1. Serve as the OSD Principal Staff Assistant for implementation of the DoD COMCAM policy in section 4., above, and for management and oversight of the Joint COMCAM Program.

5.1.2. Identify PA COMCAM priorities and establish release procedures in support of PA missions. Ensure that COMCAM priorities and release procedures are in PA guidance.

5.1.3. Ensure Director, American Forces Information Service:

5.1.3.1. Provides policy and management oversight to the Joint COMCAM Program and issue supplemental guidance and instructions, as required, to ensure program effectiveness.

5.1.3.2. Operates and maintains the JCCC as the DoD central reception and distribution point for COMCAM imagery.

5.1.3.3. Coordinates and implements systems and procedures with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Unified Combatant Commands to transmit COMCAM imagery to the JCCC.

5.1.3.4. Provides COMCAM depot-level logistics, maintenance, and contingency replenishment support through the Television-Audio Support Activity.

5.1.3.5. Conducts training for COMCAM personnel and for those who plan for and use COMCAM imagery.

5.1.3.6. Chairs a Joint COMCAM Planning Group to provide contingency, deliberate, and exercise planning support, and establish procedural and technical interoperability standards for COMCAM Forces, equipment, and systems.

5.1.3.7. Provides for the archiving and retention of COMCAM record material at the Defense Visual Information Center.

5.1.3.8. Provides representation to the National Military Command Center (NMCC) and the OSD Crisis Coordination Center.

5.1.3.9. Coordinates with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Unified Combatant Commands in the development of joint COMCAM doctrine.

5.2. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall:

5.2.1. Identify and include in all applicable implementing orders COMCAM objectives, priorities, and taskings in support of the NCA, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Unified Combatant Commands, and the MILDEPS during crisis situations, planned and contingency operations, and joint exercises.

5.2.2. Plan for and coordinate the employment of COMCAM Forces with the Unified Combatant Commands and the MILDEPS.

5.2.3. Promulgate joint COMCAM doctrine.

5.2.4. Establish a COMCAM position under the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to coordinate COMCAM imagery requirements.

5.2.5. Request Joint COMCAM representation to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff response cell in the NMCC during crises to coordinate imagery mission requirements and direct imagery distribution.

5.2.6. Plan for and coordinate COMCAM PA support for all joint operations and exercises where significant media and public interest are anticipated. Ensure that COMCAM PA taskings are reviewed for guidance on imagery format and content to meet anticipated PA requirements.

5.2.7. Coordinate communication requirements for transmission of COMCAM imagery from the Unified Combatant Commands to the JCCC.

5.2.8. Coordinate with the JCCC for imagery format, distribution, and security classification requirements.

5.3. The Commanders of the Unified Combatant Commands shall:

5.3.1. Plan and establish COMCAM mission priorities and taskings in support of imagery requirements during crisis situations, planned and contingency operations, and joint exercises. In all applicable operation plans, include a COMCAM annex that establishes imagery priorities and taskings.

5.3.2. Task and employ COMCAM forces during crisis situations, planned and contingency operations, and joint exercises. Ensure that combat camera personnel participate in exercises under a scenario from a Mission-Essential Task Listing.

5.3.3. Assist in coordinating facilities, transportation, communication, and logistical assets to support and sustain deployed COMCAM forces.

5.3.4. Employ COMCAM to document the entire scope of U.S. military activities during joint and combined exercises and operations. Plan to employ COMCAM forces during the beginning stages of any operation to ensure comprehensive mission documentation. Ensure that COMCAM forces have full-mission access, as is reasonably and tactically feasible, during each phase of the operation.

5.3.5. Identify from existing staff operations and plans assets, a COMCAM staff position to plan for the employment of COMCAM forces and to coordinate imagery requirements and taskings.

5.3.6. Establish a joint COMCAM management team (JCMT) in a joint task force (JTF), when appropriate, to coordinate COMCAM imagery missions and direct imagery distribution. The JCMT shall receive COMCAM guidance from the Unified Combatant Command in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

5.3.7. Expeditiously provide COMCAM imagery to the JCCC for immediate distribution.

5.3.8. Plan for and coordinate COMCAM PA support for joint operations and exercises where significant media and public interest is anticipated. Ensure that COMCAM taskings are reviewed for guidance on imagery format and content to meet

anticipated PA requirements.

5.3.9. Coordinate communication requirements with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for transmission of COMCAM imagery to the JCCC.

5.3.10. Coordinate with JCCC for imagery format, distribution, clearance, and security classification requirements.

5.4. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence shall provide the strategic telecommunications technology and services required to ensure the availability, reliability, and security of COMCAM imagery, commensurate with its intended use.

5.5. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:

5.5.1. Organize, train, and equip personnel and units to provide highly responsive COMCAM imagery capability in support of operational and planning requirements during worldwide crises, contingencies, exercises, and wartime operations. COMCAM resources shall be force sized to support the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan force structure.

5.5.2. Ensure that personnel and the units tasked in support of joint or combined COMCAM missions are properly trained to effectively function in a joint or combined operational environment.

5.5.3. Establish readily deployable and adaptive COMCAM force packages that may operate as independent units or be integrated into a JTF. Ensure that COMCAM force packages have unit type codes registered in the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff type unit characteristics file to meet the full spectrum of requirements of the Unified Combatant Commands during exercises, contingencies, and wartime operations.

5.5.4. Coordinate with the Unified Combatant Commands and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff through the Joint COMCAM Planning Group to ensure that COMCAM personnel, equipment, doctrine, and training are interoperable and complementary.

5.5.5. Provide COMCAM or visual information personnel to supplement the imagery capabilities of the JCCC and the Unified Combatant Commands during extended contingency missions, exercises, and wartime operations.

5.5.6. Designate a qualified officer to be a member of the Joint COMCAM Planning Group. The Secretary of the Navy shall appoint an officer from the Marine Corps to serve as a member of that group.

5.6. The Secretary of the Army shall:

5.6.1. As the single agency manager for the Pentagon, provide information technology services and visual information support to the JCCC.

5.6.2. Ensure availability of airborne qualified COMCAM personnel to support operational requirements.

5.7. The Secretary of the Navy shall:

5.7.1. Ensure the availability of COMCAM personnel with shipboard and underway experience.

5.7.2. Ensure the availability of air crew and diver-qualified COMCAM personnel with appropriate equipment to support operational requirements.

5.7.3. Ensure the availability of Marine Corps COMCAM personnel to support operational requirements.

5.8. The Secretary of the Air Force shall:

5.8.1. Within the Pentagon, provide satellite video transmission, reception support, and supplemental video services to the JCCC.

5.8.2. Ensure availability of flight crew qualified COMCAM personnel to support operational requirements.

5.5.3. Ensure availability of armament delivery recording capability to support operational requirements.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. White", written over a horizontal line.

John P. White  
Deputy Secretary of Defense